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*Verbeck of Japan, A Citizen of no Country; A Life Story of Foundation Work inaugurated by Guido Fridolin Verbeck.* By WILLIAM ELLIOT GRIFFIS. (New York, Chicago and Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Co. 1900. Pp. 376.)

To the student this book is a vexation, to the casual reader a delight. It is not placed on the solid adequate basis that this eminent missionary's personality and career deserved, yet Mr. Griffis writes with so much vividness and sympathy that during the pleasure of perusal his grave defects of conception and treatment do not offend. It is only afterwards, when we try to reproduce the picture, that we realize the shortcomings of the biography.

Here was a man of unusual course in life and of striking individuality. Born in Holland, spending his boyhood there, passing his early manhood in America practising his profession of engineering and striving for wealth, then turning his energies to theology, neglecting material pursuits, and consecrating himself to the spiritual calling of saving souls in a "heathen" land, G. F. Verbeck finally sets foot on Japanese soil at the crisis of a most pregnant and picturesque era in her history. With his great linguistic attainments (commanding six tongues), his wide appreciativeness, his tireless industry, his wonderful tact, and his high character, his services are invaluable and for years he enjoys the full confidence of the ruling and official class of the country.

He is made head of the leading college, plants the seed of the educational system of to-day, advises the organization of an army and other means of defense, is consulted on diplomatic affairs and inspires the despatch of the Iwakura embassy abroad. In reality at this portentous epoch, at the transition from medievalism to progressive modernism, he is the expert adviser to the supreme authority, and is chief among foreigners in laying the foundations of the present polity and constitutional government of the realm. Through these manifold duties he was all the abler to aid and estimate the effort to christianize which he ever held before him as the guiding star.

This favorable environment seems to have met a temperament equal to this glorious opportunity to understand the spirit of the age. The majority of missionaries everywhere have only the single eye of ecclesiasticism, and, like much of the voluminous correspondence of the Catholic priests in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, their records are dry and meagre except within contracted churchly channels. In talents and accomplishments at least, Verbeck was an exception to this narrowness of vision.

With this rare but happy union of the hour and the hero, the man fit for the occasion, it is justifiable to expect from his pen important revelations and valuable comments, an insight into the secret motives and mainsprings of that marvelous national transformation, a substantial addition to the history, both Christian and native, of the period.

But we are disappointed, though we have to a large extent the fulfillment of the promise made in the preface to let Verbeck speak for him-

self. It may be there was nothing more, as Verbeck may have been too busy to commit his impressions to paper. It may be that editorial prudence has suppressed matter till a more propitious time. But the selections we have and the hints of what we might have had, such as notes on epidemics (p. 97), a bit of Japanese table-talk (p. 105), and views on Japanese art (p. 177), lectures on "personal reminiscences," whet our appetite for more. Then his criticism in later years of certain race characteristics and certain phases of missionary methods would have undoubtedly aroused attention and might have been helpful. Of course it will not be seriously maintained that lack of space prevented any of Verbeck's product from incorporation, when we see the unwarranted obtrusion of the author over page after page, one chapter indeed being compactly headed "The Biographer in Tokio."

Thus the volume is made up, something of Verbeck as a man, something of him as a missionary, something of him as a statesman, interlarded with a considerable something of Griffis; a mixture of capital merits and unfortunate defects which were possibly unavoidable in part. The whole performance may be summarized as without structural purpose, unless that of mere entertainment can be called such. With this as the aim, however, it is excellently done, as Mr. Griffis blocked out his task so as to allow of a series of highly interesting essays which he has lumped together, without making apparent any systematic design to show a complete Verbeck.

C. MERIWETHER.

*Canada under British Rule, 1760-1900.* By Sir JOHN G. BOURINOT. [Cambridge Historical Series.] (Cambridge: University Press. 1900. Pp. xii, 346.)

SIR JOHN BOURINOT'S book maintains the general level of excellence of the other volumes in the series to which it belongs, and furnishes a useful, though necessarily brief, account of Canada during the last hundred and forty years. An introductory chapter summarizes the chief events in the period of French exploration and occupation, and the political, economic and social conditions in Canada under the French régime. Then follows a review of the early years of British rule, the foundation of Nova Scotia, and the Canadian aspects of the American Revolution, an especially interesting account being given under the last head of the United Empire Loyalists, to whose subsequent political influence, particularly in New Brunswick, frequent reference is later made. The remainder of the story is grouped under the successive periods of the development of representative institutions (1784-1812), the war of 1812-1815, the evolution of responsible government (1815-1839), "a new era" of colonial government (1839-1867), marked by the union of the Canadas and the establishment of responsible government, a summary review of the evolution of confederation, and the history of Canada since 1867, when federation was achieved. A final chapter reviews the relations of Canada with the United States and the influence of the Dominion in imperial councils.